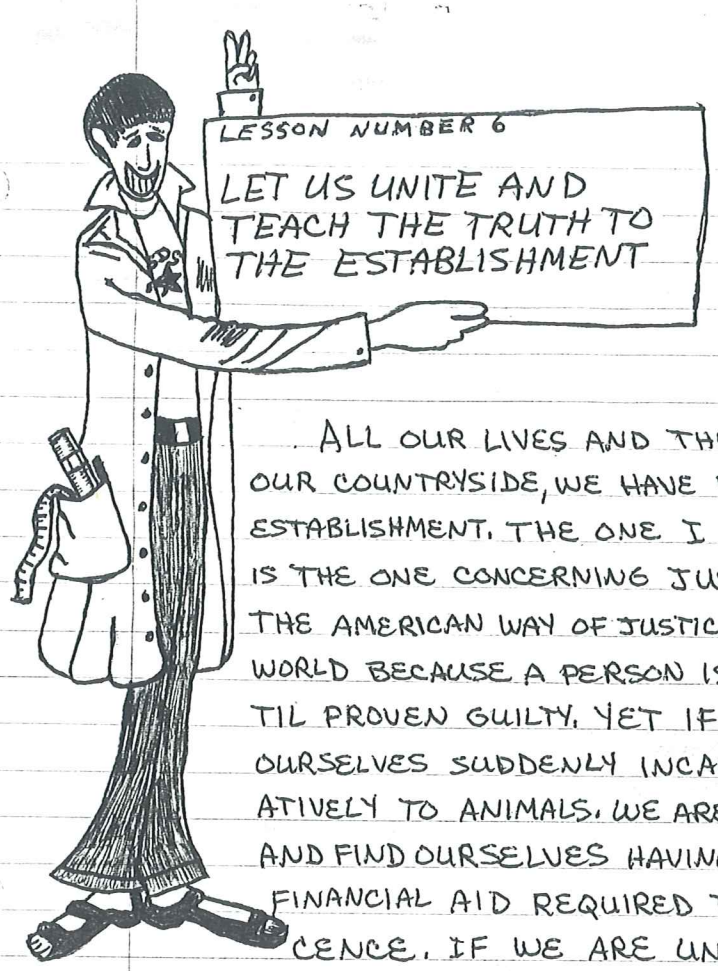
BY: DIANE THERESE TURNER
HARRIS COUNTY JAIL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002
13 FEB. 1974



ALL OUR LIVES AND THROUGHOUT SCHOOLS ACROSS OUR COUNTRYSIDE, WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT LIES BY THE ESTABLISHMENT. THE ONE I FIND MOST PAINFUL THOUGH IS THE ONE CONCERNING JUSTICE. WE WERE TAUGHT THAT THE AMERICAN WAY OF JUSTICE IS THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD BECAUSE A PERSON IS CONSIDERED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY. YET IF WE GET ARRESTED, WE FIND OURSELVES SUDDENLY INCARCERATED AND TREATED COMPARATIVELY TO ANIMALS. WE ARE SUDDENLY CONDEMED BY SOCIETY AND FIND OURSELVES HAVING TO SCRAPE UP THE COSTLY FINANCIAL AID REQUIRED TO TRY TO PROVE OUR INNOCENCE. IF WE ARE UNLUCKY TO BE ABLE TO FUND THIS CAMPAIGN THEN WE GET AWARDED A COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT US. HIS SOLE INTEREST IN OUR CASE IS THE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS HE WILL GET FROM THE STATE FOR TAKING IT. HE SHOWS UP IN COURT AT THE APPOINTED TIME SO HE CAN COLLECT HIS FEE AND WE ARE LUCKY IF HE EVEN REMEMBERS OUR NAME RIGHT FOR THE OCCASSION.

ANOTHER LIE TAUGHT BY THE ESTABLISHMENT CONCERNS BROTHERHOOD AND LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW MAN. EVEN IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THE ESTABLISHMENT STILL TEACHES DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ONE'S RACE, RELIGION, POLITICAL BELIEFS AND SOCIAL BACKROUND. THE ESTABLISHMENT TAUGHT US TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS BUT NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH THEM FOR IT WOULD DEGRADE OUR STATUS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. WE FOUND THEM TO BE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS INSTEAD.

THEN THERE IS THE ESTABLISHMENT FABLE CONCERNING DEMOCRACY. WE KEPT HEARING ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF FREE.

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ENTERPRISE, YET, WHEN WE LOOK AROUND US, ALL WE FIND IS GREED.

WE WERE ALSO ONCE TAUGHT THE LIE THAT THE POLICEMAN IS OUR FRIEND. WHEN WE PROTEST OUR PROBLEMS OR PERHAPS GET INNOCENTLY INVOLVED IN A MISHAP, IT IS THIS FRIEND WHO BEATS US AND THROWS US IN JAIL.

ONE OF THE VERY LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT HOLDS SACRED IS THE LAW GOVERNING FREEDOM OF SPEECH. YET WHEN WE GIVE VOICE TO SOME OF TODAY'S PROBLEMS, WE ARE TOLD TO BE QUIET UNLESS WE CAN SOLVE THEM. MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS WE GO UNAWARE OF UNTIL WE ARE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED AND CRUSHED BY THEM.

THE RESULT OF THESE FRAUDULENT TEACHINGS WE HAVE SPENT OUR LIVES LEARNING IS THE REVOLT BY MORE OPEN-MINDED FREE THINKING SPIRITS. MANY ARE IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER DETAINING FACILITIES SUCH AS JAILS ALL ACROSS AMERICA. SOME BEING FULL OF PENT UP HOSTILITIES AND FRUSTRATIONS HAVE CHOSEN TO REBELL VIOLENTLY. THE ESTABLISHMENT CHOOSES TO LABEL US ALL RADICALS BECAUSE OF THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES. THEY CLAIM WE ARE SICK, BUT THESE ARE TRUTHS AND FACTS WE HAVE LEARNED THE HARD WAY. CAN WE TEACH THE ESTABLISHMENT THE BENEFITS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE? CAN YOU TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS? WILL THEY AT LEAST HEAR MUCHLESS LISTEN? NO! NOT LIKELY!

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